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## LNP Derails Moreton Bay Rail Project

### *Statement by Owen Doogan, Secretary, Rail Tram and Bus Union - Qld*

When the LNP pulled funds from the Moreton Bay Rail Link Project, they called it removing the gold plating – now we see they just had no idea what they were doing. The LNP's Tim Nichols and Scott Emerson along with the Abbott/Turnbull Government have set the opening of the MBRL back months.

Like the Turnbull Government's incompetent fumbling of the NBN, the LNP made a total hash of the MBRL – They built a system so incompatible with the rest of the rail network it simply can't be opened.

The LNP ordered a system which just doesn't talk to the rest of the network. It's a farce.

**It's like trying to join old school copper based dial up internet with superfast fibre based broadband – they are two different things. It never should have happened.**

We are pleased that the Palaszczuk Government has today stood up, got to the bottom of the problems and given the experts in QR the job of driving the repair so the line gets open safely.

QR had successfully managed the Gold Coast line, the Springfield line and many other upgrades with no hold ups. For some reason the Qld LNP wouldn't even let them bid on the MBRL. The LNP's blind ideological obsession with privatisation led them to ensure the experts at building railway couldn't even bid for the work.

What we see now is a real dogs breakfast, caused by cuts from the current Abbott/Turnbull Federal Government, cheered on by the then LNP Transport Minister Scott Emerson.

I'm heartened that the Palaszczuk Government and Transport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe is showing some leadership and fixing what are massive problems with the MBRL.

The problems they are facing are quite complex and technical – the problem is that the systems which govern how trains move between the MBRL and the rest of the network aren't compatible. The LNP's system just doesn't talk to the rest of the network – it's as simple as that.

Talking with Transport Minister Stirling Hinchliffe, I'm confident he is taking the right action – getting QR to manage the rectification and allowing them – the experts in this field – to determine when the repaired system is safe and fit for purpose.

The RTBU has a long history of supporting safe and reliable railway in Australia. We share the disappointment of the community at the delay in commencement, but ensuring these systems are fixed is about more than convenience, it's about public safety and that's our number one priority.

**Further comments – contact Owen Doogan – RTBU Qld Secretary – 0419 769 126**